



**TOWN OF PUTNEY**

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December 14, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

Communication is transmitted from many different forums. The Town of Putney has relied on Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) since 2011. BCTV is a critical communication resource in our community. It is important to be transparent with daily operations within town government. BCTV gives our community the connection people require if one is not mobile, working or not able to attend our bi-weekly Select Board meetings. Town Meetings are also recorded by BCTV which is an important democratic function in this community. Other public informational hearings are televised when requested.

Legislative Boards often are approached in writing or in person by residents who viewed a televised meeting asking for further clarification or just to comment on an item that was mentioned in a meeting. This indirect involvement is important as residents rely on this type of public forum. With BCTV's ability to televise community events, and meetings in our surrounding area people are directly informed. BCTV's ability to offer this service is a valuable benefit to all communities.

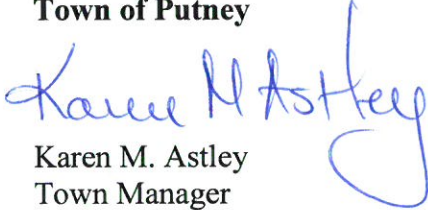
This local presence enables the residents of Putney to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy.

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By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Respectfully,  
**Town of Putney**

  
Karen M. Astley  
Town Manager